

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
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PHONE (907) 842-5257

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik
Chignik Bay
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clarks Point
Curyung
Egegik
Ekuk
Ekwok
Igiugig
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
Kanatak
King Salmon
Kokhanok
Koliganek
Levelock
Manokotak
Naknek
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nondalton
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Port Heiden
Portage Creek
South Naknek
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik

The Honorable Robert Perciasepe
Acting Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W
Mail Code 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Via email: perciasepe.bob@epa.gov

Re: Keep 30 day comment period for Bristol Bay Assessment

Dear Administrator Perciasepe:

Bristol Bay Native Association sincerely appreciates the effort the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invested in authoring the revised draft Bristol Bay Assessment and the agency's commitment to releasing the Assessment prior to the summer fishing season. This document is a significant achievement for EPA and the people of Bristol Bay. The Assessment will greatly assist the public, regional stakeholders and local, state and federal decision-makers to better understand the cultures, economies, and environments of our region and the threats that large scale mining would pose to those cultures, economies, and environments.

We strongly urge EPA to keep to the original 30-day public comment period for the Bristol Bay Assessment. A 30-day comment period ensures that EPA will maintain its schedule and commitment to the people of the region who are most impacted by the proposed Pebble mine. We believe, and as EPA has acknowledged, there has been extensive public comment and scientific peer review of the earlier draft. Extending the current comment period would adversely impact the people of the region. The current schedule is equitable for all parties who are now taking the opportunity to comment on this critical national issue and look forward to a final Bristol Bay Assessment as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Ralph Andersen
President & CEO

Cc: Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator, Region 10